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A

SHORT VIEW

OF

THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF

WINCHESTER.

WITH A

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SEATS

OF THE

NEIGHBOURING NOBILITY, GENTRY, &c.

BEING CHIEFLY EXTRACTED FROM THE

REV. MR. MILNER'S HISTORY AND SURVEY OF WINCHESTER,

In 2 Vols. 4to.

Non indignemur mortalia corpora solvi
Dum patet exemplis oppida posse mori.

Winchester:
Printed and Sold by ROBBINS.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE present Short View is chiefly an abstract of THE HISTORY CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL AND SURVEY OF THE ANTIQUITIES OF WINCHESTER, by the Rev. JOHN MILNER, M.A. F. S. A. in two volumes 4to. It is intended for the use of strangers, and other persons who have not the leisure to read, or else have not the means of procuring, the above-mentioned large work. It is true there are two or three other *Winchester Guides*, or other short pamphlets of the same kind already before the public, but these being now proved to be superficial and erroneous,* there is a pressing call for the present work, which, as far as it goes, is presumed to be faithful and accurate. Still, however, it must be remembered, that it professes to be no more than a hasty glance at the objects to which it relates. Hence the reader, who is desirous of seeing a regular and detailed History of our ancient Metropolis, and a full and accurate description of the interesting Antiquities which it contains, together with the proofs and authorities on which both these accounts rest, must have recourse to the above-mentioned laborious work.

* See the Preface to the 1st. vol. of the said History and Survey, and the work itself passim.

Edmund Pyle
Arch. Deacon of Ebor.
1776
Detail [illegible]

A SHORT VIEW
OF THE HISTORY AND CURIOSITIES OF
WINCHESTER.

THE CITY.

NOT to lose time in disproving the history and Trojan ancestry of Ludor Rous Hudibras, the pretended founder of Winchester, it seems plain that this city was first established by the Celtic Britons, who passed over into our island from the coasts of Normandy and Brittany,* several centuries before the Christian æra. The Celts,† Gael, or Galli, were one of the most ancient as well as numerous tribes that issued from the parent soil of Asia, to re-people the world after the general deluge; and their language and descendants are still to be traced throughout the western parts of Europe.‡ Having founded our city on the banks of the pleasant and fruitful river Itchin, where it is overhung by chalky cliffs, they naturally called it, in their language, *Caer*

* Ex Armorica. Bede Hist. Eccles. l. 1, c. 1. Item in Chron. Sax. secundum lection. castigat.

† Pronounced hard as if written with a K.

‡ Particularly in the Highlands of Scotland, in Ireland, Wales, Lower Brittany, Biscay, &c.

 Gwent,

Gwent, or *The White City*, a name which from some similar circumstances was communicated to two other British cities in different parts of the island.*

Within a century, or little more, before the birth of Christ, the Belgæ, a German tribe, having crossed the Rhine and possessed themselves of the north-east part of Gaul, sent a colony, collected from their different clans, into this island, who making themselves masters of the south coast, concentrated their strength in this county, which accordingly took its name from them, and made this city their capital, which henceforward was called the Caer Gwent of the Belgæ.

During this state of things the island was invaded by Julius Cæsar, in the year 55 before the birth of Christ. It was not, however, until almost a century later, that his successor Claudius undertook to make a conquest of it. On this occasion the territory of which our city was the capital, including the Isle of Wight, was the first that was brought into subjection, chiefly by the valour of Vespasian, who afterwards became emperor; and of course it was the first that was

* Namely, Venta Silurum in Wentland, near Chepstow, in Monmouthshire; and Venta Icenorum, now Caester, in Norfolk.

reclaimed

reclaimed from that state of barbarism, in which the Britons had hitherto lived, to the manners and arts of civilized life. We may judge of the progress that these made in Caer Gwent, or *Venta Belgarum*, as it was now called by the conquerors, from the circumstance of its containing a public manufactory of cloth, the directors of which were appointed by the emperor. There is every appearance that our city was one of those which were given up by Tiberius Claudius to a native prince, who, in honour of his benefactor, assumed his name in addition to that of Cogidubnus,* which marked the particular clan of which he was the head. It is equally probable that this prince was the same gallant British chieftain, who had so long withstood the force of the Roman arms; until, falling into the hands of Ostorius, he was sent by him in chains to the emperor Claudius, by whom he was generously pardoned and set at liberty. His real name seems to have been Arivog or Arviragus,† tho' he is generally called Caractacus by the Roman historians. It was under a successor and lineal descendant of the last mentioned prince, namely Lucius, that the Christian faith, being generally

* Called Togodumnus by Tacitus and Dio.

† See History and Survey of Winchester, vol. 1, p. 29, et deinceps.

propagated throughout the island, by preachers sent from Rome, a bishopric was founded, and a most magnificent cathedral built, in our city of Venta, about the year of Christ 180. The latter, having been destroyed in the general persecution of Dioclesian, towards the close of the third century, was soon afterwards, when Constantine the Great gave peace to the church, rebuilt, and a convent of monks instituted to serve it.

Amongst the many Roman emperors or tyrants who assumed the purple in Britain, one of them, whose name was also Constantine, had a son, by name Constans, who was a monk of the cathedral. Upon the promotion of the former, he withdrew his son from his solitude and created him Cæsar. The latter was afterwards saluted by his army with the title of emperor, which, however, he did not live long to enjoy.

The Romans having, in the year 418, withdrawn their legions from Britain, in order to defend their continental provinces, the chief authority successively fell into the hands of different native princes, several of whom, particularly Aurelius Ambrosius and Uther Pendragon, distinguished our city by their frequent residence and transactions. At length Cerdic, a Saxon chieftain, having landed, with a large body of his

his countrymen, at the western extremity of this county, and defeated the Britons in different engagements, made himself master of Venta, which now assumed the name of *Wintanceaster*, and became the capital of the West Saxon kingdom. Here Cerdic caused himself to be crowned in the year 519; and here, namely in the cathedral church, he was buried, in the year 534, having previously slaughtered the monastic clergy who officiated in it, with the greater part of the other inhabitants, and converted it into a temple of his pagan deities.

Winchester, as it is henceforward to be termed, continued, more than a century after this revolution, immersed in the darkness of infidelity, and the rudeness of barbarism. It was not until the year 536, that is to say, about 40 years after the gospel had been preached in the eastern part of the island, that St. Birinus, who was sent by pope Honorius, landed on this coast and converted king Kinegils, the descendant of Cerdic, with a great part of his people. Christianity being introduced into our city, all the advantages of civilized life by degrees flowed into it; and as it was designed, from the first, to be the bishop's see of the West Saxon kingdom, an elegant cathedral began to be built, by Kinegils, on the ruins of the ancient cathedral, which had been profaned

profaned by Cerdic. St. Birinus, however, having received the same commission to preach in the Mercian, as in the West Saxon kingdom, chose, as did his two immediate successors, to reside at Dorchester,* on the confines of them both. Together with the cathedral itself, which was finished by Kenewalch, son and successor of Kinegils, a monastery was founded and endowed of religious men, who were either monks or regulars canons, for the performance of divine service.

With the power of the West Saxon kingdom the greatness and wealth of its capital city naturally increased, until that kingdom having swallowed up the other branches of the heptarchy, Winchester became the undoubted metropolis of all England. Accordingly Egbert, who, by his prowess and wisdom, had the merit of effecting this union, was crowned sole monarch of England, in this cathedral, in the year 827. His son and successor, Ethelwolph, who had been educated in the cathedral monastery, and who chiefly resided in this city, enriched the latter with the first municipal charter that we find mention of in history. Ethelwolph's immortal son, Alfred, likewise received his first education in Winchester, under St. Swithun, and honoured it with his frequent residence, and the chief of his religious foundations

* Now a village near Oxford.

foundations. In the reign of the latter's grandson, Athelstan, that duel of national gallantry took place, under the north wall of this city, between the English and Danish champions, Guy of Warwick and Colbrand, which has been so much magnified and misrepresented by fabulous circumstances. Most of the succeeding Saxon princes, and some also of the Danish kings, particularly Canute the Great, enriched our city and cathedral with their liberalities during life, and with their mortal remains at their respective deaths. These advantages, however, were not without a mixture of misfortunes. It was three several times reduced under the yoke of the Danes, who committed the greatest devastations in it. A final stop, at last, was put to their power, by the accession of St. Edward the Confessor, who was solemnly crowned in our cathedral, with demonstrations of unbounded joy, in 1042.

During the aforesaid period our city was not less illustrated by the sanctity and beneficence of its prelates, than it was by the virtues and heroism of its sovereigns. The names of no fewer than ten of them occur in our old English calendar of saints: namely, Sts. Birinus, Agilbert, Eleutherius, Hedda, Swithun, Frithstan, Brinstan, Elphege the Bald, Ethelwold, and Elphege the Martyr. Amongst these, St. Swithun, who was a

native of Winchester, was the most celebrated for his virtues, particularly for his humility and his public merits. He was the tutor both of Ethelwolph and of Alfred; and besides establishing churches in most parts of his diocese for the spiritual advantage of his people, he likewise built bridges, and other public works, as did also his successor, St. Ethelwold, for their temporal conveniencies.

The Norman conquest, however oppressive to the nation in general, yet served rather to encrease than to diminish the greatness, wealth, and splendor of Winchester. It still continued to be the metropolis of the kingdom. Here the chief mint, royal treasury, and public archives, particularly doomsday-book, called, from this circumstance, *Rotulus Wintoniensis*, were kept; and here the Conqueror and his two sons and successors, William Rufus and Henry I, made it a rule to pass the principal festival of the year, namely Easter, during which they wore the crown in solemn state. The last mentioned prince, having taken to wife Maud, heiress of the West Saxon princes, who resided in the abbey of this city, though she was not a nun, and being, within a twelve month, blessed here with a son and heir apparent, he granted a charter of immunities and privileges to the guild

of

of merchants, which had been incorporated by Ethelwolph. This, however, was the term of Winchester's greatness. In the succeeding reign a civil war breaking out between king Stephen and the empress Maud, it was carried on with unrelenting fury for several weeks in the very heart of the city, which was nearly equally divided between the two parties. The consequence was, that far the greatest part of it, including two famous abbeys, the guild-hall, mint, and other public offices, were burnt or destroyed, and a blow was struck at the grandeur of Winchester, which it never afterwards recovered. It is true Henry II, Richard I, John, Henry III, and the three first Edwards, all of them honoured it with much of their company, and enriched it with charters and other favours. In particular Henry III valued himself much upon being a native of this city, and on various occasions proved his regard for it. Amongst other instances he refused to admit of the precedency which the city of London began to claim over it, by virtue of a purchase which it had made of the same in the time of Richard I. Nevertheless Winchester continued to droop ever after the aforesaid catastrophe, and could never more attain the greatness or consequence which it enjoyed during the Saxon and early Norman periods. It must not

be forgotten, that in 1261, the city experienced a second calamity similar to the former, when the army of the Barons, under Simon de Monfort, sacked and defaced it in a most horrible manner, killing many of the citizens, and particularly all the Jews, great numbers of whom had heretofore resided in it. An event which seemed at first to promise great benefit to it, namely the re-establishment here of the woolstaple, by Edward III, in the end served only to precipitate its fall, when that lucrative branch of trade, by which it had formerly flourished, and for which its situation is peculiarly adapted, was suddenly withdrawn from it and transferred to Calais.

Notwithstanding what has been said, Winchester was still of sufficient importance to attract the notice and to be frequently honoured with the residence of the different sovereigns, and the assembly of parliaments, during many reigns. Both these circumstances occurred in that of Richard II. His successor, Henry IV, chose this city for the solemnization of his nuptials with Joan dowager duchess of Britanny. Here Henry V received the splendid embassy sent to him by Charles the French king, previously to his undertaking the conquest of France. Henry VI had a particular regard for Winchester, which

which he honoured with frequent visits and enriched with many favours. Henry VII, from a mistaken idea that the castle of this city had been built by his supposed ancestor king Arthur, brought his queen hither to be delivered of his eldest son, whom he caused to be christened by the abovementioned name. Henry VIII also, in the early part of his reign, seems to have held this city in great esteem, and accordingly spent many days here in shewing the antiquities and curiosities of it to his guest, the emperor Charles V.

But the circumstances which chiefly contributed to support the remaining consequence of Winchester, during the period we have been speaking of, were the number and wealth of the religious establishments, with which it abounded, and the charity and munificence of its prelates, almost all of whom left lasting monuments of these virtues in Winchester and in other parts. To speak of the principal of these, Bishop Wykeham rebuilt the west end of the Cathedral, and founded the College in this city and New College at Oxford; cardinal Beaufort new founded St. Cross; bishop Waynflete founded Magdalen College, Oxford; and bishop Fox, besides his magnificent works at the cathedral, founded Corpus Christi College in the aforesaid city.

At length Henry VIII, being provoked at the Pope's refusal to sanction his divorce with queen Catherine, and marriage with Ann Boleyn, and having assumed the spiritual in addition to his civil supremacy, wrecked his vengeance upon all ecclesiastical persons and establishments whatsoever. The storm fell heavy upon Winchester, the inhabitants of which chiefly depended upon these for their subsistence. The bishop and clergy were fleeced bare, in order to buy off that præmunire into which the King had artfully ensnared them; the magnificent abbeys, numerous religious houses, hospitals, and colleges, with very few exceptions, were suppressed, destroyed, and all their moveable and immoveable property seized upon and dispersed among the court favourites. Thus the wealth which used to circulate in this city was lost or diverted into other channels; the chief buildings which adorned it were destroyed, the empty spaces of which still remain; and the inhabitants were oppressed with poor laws and rates, the existence of which was unknown whilst the monasteries existed.

The same plan being pursued by the guardians and courtiers of Edward VI, most of the sacred plate of the remaining churches, and the greater part of the lands of the bishoprics, were alienated in the same manner. These were restored, or recovered

recovered by queen Mary, who bore a particular respect for this ancient city, which she favoured with a new charter, and chose for the celebration of her marriage with Philip of Spain. Queen Elizabeth however succeeding her, renewed a great part of the former alienations, and countenanced the bishop in the depredations which he made upon the buildings belonging to the cathedral. At length, through the interest of Sir Francis Walsingham, a new charter was granted to Winchester, in which "the great ruin, decay, and poverty, into which it had fallen," are explicitly stated; and, in order to relieve them, permission was granted to its inhabitants to manufacture particular kinds of cloth. In the religious persecution which Mary carried on against the protestants, one person, Thomas Benbridge, suffered death in Winchester, and another person connected with it, archdeacon Philpot, was executed in London. In that which Elizabeth raised against the catholics, about a dozen individuals, inhabitants or persons otherwise connected with this city, were put to death, either in the city itself, or elsewhere.

The plague raging in London at the accession of James I to the English throne, the courts of law were transferred to this city, for the accommodation of which, the bishop was obliged to give

give up his palace, and the several members of the college the whole of that extensive building. On this occasion the House of Peers was also summoned to Winchester, for the trial of two of their number, viz. the lords Cobham and Grey de Wilton, who, with several other persons of inferior rank and various descriptions, were here condemned for that ridiculous plot, which, from the most conspicuous character implicated in it, was called Sir Walter Raleigh's Conspiracy. Only three, however, of the pretended conspirators, being otherwise obnoxious characters, actually suffered, the king's fears not permitting the others, who were of superior dignity, to be put to death upon such proofs as had been brought against them.

During the civil war, in the reign of Charles I, Winchester was several times successively in possession of each of the contending parties. At the latter end of the year 1643, it was strongly fortified and garrisoned by the royalists, who seemed to consider it as the key to the western counties. (1) But these measures were rendered ineffectual by the event of the fatal battle of Cheriton Down, near this city, fought March 29, 1644. It was not, however, until the castle was reduced by Oliver Cromwell, in the autumn of

(1) Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.

the

the following year, that the rebels became absolutely and finally masters of Winchester; an event which was followed by a dismal havoc amongst its public edifices.

In the reign of Charles II the dreadful plague, which desolated the metropolis and other parts of the kingdom, raged with equal fury in this city, a public monument of which is seen without the West-gate.* The said monarch, who had been always exceedingly partial to the residence of Winchester, and who, together with his brother James, was pleased to accept of the freedom of the city, at length resolved to restore the seat which his ancestors had formerly possessed in it, by erecting a palace for himself on the ruins of the ancient castle. He laid the first stone of this great work, March 23, 1683, and it was carried on with great ardor during the space of two years, when a final stop was put to it by the death of the king, Feb. 6, 1685.

The only remarkable event that took place in this city under James II, was the execution of Mrs. Lisle, vulgarly called Lady Lisle, who was beheaded in the market-place, Sept. 2, 1685, for harbouring two rebels, who had served under the duke of Monmouth at the battle of Sedgemoor. Whether it was thought necessary to strike a terror into the numerous partisans of that cause

* The Obelisk.

in

in this city by this execution, or that certain loyalists were bent upon sacrificing this ancient lady to the manes of their fathers and their friends, who had been condemned to death by her husband, the famous regicide, John Lisle, who had been the representative for Winchester in the long parliament, and afterwards one of Cromwell's mock lords, certain it is, that she had not justice done to her at her trial, the jury being browbeat and intimidated by Jefferies, who sat on the bench, to find her guilty.

The few circumstances in the history of our city worthy of notice, since the Revolution, were the new erection of the guild-hall in 1713; the laying open of the navigable canal to the public at large, by an act of parliament in 1767, (which canal was first made by bishop De Lucy in the reign of king John and afterwards renewed in that of Charles II); the new paving of the city, begun in 1770; and the destruction of the most valuable monuments of antiquity, which has been more or less carried on during the whole of the present century, and particularly during this latter part of it.

Winchester is situated in a pleasant and fertile valley, which is surrounded by lofty cliffs and hills, and intersected by the various branches of

a

clear and rapid river. Indeed, both the water and the air here are remarkable for their purity; and if the latter, from the openness of the country and the nature of the soil, is rather keen for a situation so much to the south, it is proportionably healthy, as experience proves. The provisions here are all of the very best quality, and having a near communication with the sea, by a navigable canal, the city is supplied with coals, timber, and other heavy commodities upon reasonable terms. Its corporation, which consists of a mayor, high steward, recorder, bailiffs, aldermen, besides the freemen, is the most ancient establishment of the kind in England, being anterior to that of London by several years. By these the two representatives in parliament for the city are chosen. It possesses two manufactories, which, however, are not extensive; one for combing wool, of ancient date; the other for spinning silk, which has lately been set on foot. The other advantages which this city enjoys, and which cannot fail of making it a place of considerable consequence, are, that the two annual assizes, the four quarter sessions, the parliamentary and other elections, the races, music meetings, and other public meetings, of whatever nature, for the county, are exclusively held here. Add to this that it is the head quarters and chief

barracks for the military district, in which it is placed; that the county goal, bridewell, and hospital are situated in it; and that it contains the remains of an ancient castle, a venerable cathedral, a celebrated college, and other antiquities and curiosities, which we shall proceed briefly to notice.

THE CASTLE AND KING's HOUSE.

THE ancient castle of this city is celebrated, and has been celebrated for some centuries, as having been founded by the renowned British king Arthur, in the year 523. This however is a palpable error, which has arisen from confounding the history of Caer Gwent or Winchester of Monmouthshire, an ancient city which has been long destroyed, and which appears to have been actually the residence of Arthur, with our city of the same name. The latter, at the time we are speaking of, was firmly and finally settled as the capital of the West Saxon kingdom under the victorious Cerdic. The real founder of the castle was William the Conqueror, who built it in order to keep Winchester, then his metropolis, in subjection. It was enlarged and strengthened by king Stephen, whose army, in 1142, recovered it

it of the empress Maud, after a long and severe siege, during which, for the security of her person, she caused herself to be carried out of it as a corpse, in a leaden coffin. In the civil war, at the end of king John's reign, it was taken by the French dauphin and the confederate barons, tho' it appears to have resisted the fury of the latter, when they afterwards sacked the city, in the reign of his son and successor Henry III. It was afterwards made use of as a state prison, and for holding the assizes of the itinerant judges, tho' it continued to be also a royal palace, whenever the sovereign resided in Winchester, as was always occasionally the practice, until within a few reigns. When James I ascended the throne of England, he bestowed it, in fee-simple, upon Sir Benjamin Tichborne, of Tichborne, near this city, and his heirs for ever, as a reward for his service in proclaiming him in this county. In the great civil war it was strongly garrisoned for the king and commanded by lord Ogle; but at length, in 1645, was taken by Oliver Cromwell, after a week's siege, who dismantled and almost destroyed it. What remained of it was conferred by the Parliament upon Sir William Waller, who was one of their partisans and generals. He was also brother in law to Sir Henry Tichborne, the real owner of it, whose other property, as well

as this, they had previously confiscated for being a royalist and a catholic.

It has been already mentioned, that Charles II undertook to build a modern palace within the precincts of the ancient castle. As much as was actually executed of that work, during the two years that it was in hand, we have still before our eyes. This, however, is but a small part of the magnificent plan according to which it was intended to be finished, as is seen by the folio plate lately published, * from an original drawing of the architect, Sir Christopher Wren. The first public use that seems to have been made of this spacious dwelling, was that of a prison of war for French prisoners in 1756. It was again applied to the same use for French, Spanish, and Dutch prisoners during the war which broke out in 1779. In the year 1792 his Majesty accommodated several hundreds of the French emigrant clergy with the use of it, where they resided just four years. At last, in the year 1796, the use of it becoming indispensibly necessary for military purposes, it was fitted up as the chief barracks of the district in which it is situated.

There still exist, on the south side of the

* See this in *The History Ecclesiastical and Civil and Survey of Winchester*, 4to, vol. i, p. 432.

King's

King's-house, remains of towers and considerable masses of ruins, which belonged to the keep of the ancient castle. On the north side of it is yet to be seen entire the chief chapel of the castle, which was dedicated to St. Stephen. It is now used as a public hall for the county, where the assizes and other public meetings for Hampshire are held. At the east end of it, over where the ancient altar stood, is seen a large wooden table, eighteen feet in diameter and several inches thick, called *Arthur's Round Table.* * This was evidently an eating table for the knights who used to meet here to perform feats of chivalry, which kind of meetings, from this circumstance, was anciently called *The Round Table.* These, however, were not so much as known in England, until the reign of king Stephen, 600 years after the reign of Arthur. There is great reason to believe that the said Stephen was the real author of the present table. The figures and characters now painted on it, were certainly first executed in the reign of Henry VIII.

* See the Miscellaneous Plate, in *History and Survey of Winchester,* 4to. vol. i, p. 449.

THE CATHEDRAL.

IT has been already stated, that the cathedral was first built by king Lucius, about the year of Christ 180. Being destroyed in Dioclesian's persecution and its clergy martyred, it was rebuilt, together with a monastery for the religious men who were appointed to serve it, about the year 313. In 516, its clergy having been again slaughtered, it was turned into a heathen temple by our ancestors the West Saxons; in which condition it continued until the conversion of the latter people by St. Birinus, when the royal convert, king Kinegils, took it down, and, for the third time, began to build a Christian cathedral on the same identical spot. This was finished by his son Kenewalk. About the year 871 the pagan Danes, having made a sudden irruption into Winchester, once more massacred all the cathedral clergy, who appear hitherto to have been either monks, or regular canons, differing little from them, and committed great depredations on the building itself, which, however, were soon afterwards repaired. In king Edgar's time St. Ethelwold, bishop of the see, both rebuilt the cathedral and furnished it with monks, obliging the

the former clergy, who, by this time, were become mere seculars and exceedingly slothful and irregular, to retire from it upon pensions. Of his works the crypts, or vaults, under the east end of the building, at present only remain. Soon after the Conquest bishop Walkelin, who was cousin to the Conqueror, undertook to rebuild the whole cathedral or at least the far greater part of it, together with the adjoining monastery for the monks, which work he compleated in 1093. Of this the great square tower, over the intersection of the cathedral, and the north and south transepts, or cross isles, still remain. In the reign of king John bishop Godfrey de Lucy spent great sums in improving the cathedral. What he executed is still seen in the low isles at the east end of it. Bishop Edington, under Edward III, began to rebuild the west end of the church in the Gothic manner, as appears by the two first windows from the western extremity, on the north side. His successor, however, bishop Wykeham, had the merit of compleating this great work, and that in a much more elegant style, as we remark in all the other part of the said west end, quite up to the great tower. Bishop Fox, in the time of Henry VII, rebuilt the whole east end of the cathedral, from the

tower

tower as far as the low isles of De Lucy, which work also remains at present. *

This cathedral is, altogether, the longest in the kingdom, extending, from the entrance of the great porch to the buttresses at the east end, above 550 feet. The inside of the grand nave with the corresponding isles, being the work of Wykeham, is strikingly magnificent and awful. Under the fifth arch, on the south side, stands the tomb and mortuary chapel of that celebrated prelate, being an exquisite specimen of Gothic architecture.† A little beyond it, against the wall, is a beautiful modern statue, in a reclining posture, of bishop Willis. Opposite this, on the north side, is the curious ancient baptismal font, being of black marble, rudely sculptured, and containing on its south and west sides a continued history of some ancient prelate.‡ Many fruitless attempts have been made to explain these carvings. At length, however, it is clearly proved, that they exhibit the legend of St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra.‖ Under the tenth arch,

* See the Folio Plate of the Cathedral, in *The History and Survey*, vol. i, p. 192, which exhibits all the several works here mentioned.

† See the Plate in vol. ii, p. 25. *Ib.*

‡ See a representation of this font, in the Miscellaneous Plate. *Ib.*

‖ See vol. ii, p. 76. *Ib.*

on

on the south side, adjoining to the steps which lead into the choir, is the tomb and chantry of bishop Edington, Wykeham's predecessor. Opposite to these are the monuments of the bishops Morley and Hoadly, with the distinguishing emblems of those prelates very discordant characters.

The choir is bounded by a screen of elegant Grecian architecture, said to have been executed by Inigo Jones, but which is quite out of character in a Gothic cathedral. The two niches contain bronze statues of James I and Charles I. The stall work of the choir in general, which is of exquisite workmanship, is proved, by its style, to be at least as ancient as the reign of Edward III, though the pulpit and certain other parts of it are as modern as the time of the two first Tudors. The bishop's throne, which was executed by bishop Trelawney, at the beginning of this century, is liable to the aforesaid objection, being of the Corinthian order. In the middle of the pavement, before the throne, is the tomb of William Rufus, the last English king who was interred in this cathedral. Until his time it had been the general burying place of our kings and princes, ever since the conversion of the West Saxons. The bones of several of these, particularly of Kinegils, Kenewalch, Egbert,

Ethelwolph, Edmund, * Edred, Canute, &c. as also those of queen Emma, are contained in the six mortuary chests which are placed over the partition wall on each side of the choir.

There is an altar-piece by West, viz. the Resurrection of Lazarus, which, though inferior to its subject, is prodigiously extolled; and there is an ancient screen behind it, exhibiting the most exquisite Gothic sculpture of its kind in the kingdom, which is generally overlooked. Behind the altar is a chapel, in which the shrine of St. Swithun was formerly kept. This is bounded, to the south, by bishop Fox's chantry, and, to the north, by that of bishop Gardiner. Under these the skeleton figures of the respective prelates are exhibited. Beneath the first mentioned of the said chapels is *The Holy Hole*, as it was called, for containing the relics of saints, the entrance into which is shut up with masonry. Before this lies an exceedingly large sculptured tomb-stone, from which the brasses have been stolen. This has hitherto been believed, both by the learned and the unlearned, to cover the remains of St. Swithun; but the error of that opinion is now demonstrated.† Further on, to the east,

* A son of Alfred, who was crowned king and died before his father. Rudborne.

† Vol. ii, *History and Survey of Winchester*, p. 68.

are

are the two magnificent chantries and tombs of two successive bishops of Winchester, that of cardinal Beaufort to the right, and that of bishop Waynflete to the left.* A little beyond these, in the middle of the pavement, is a low monument, which has very absurdly been described as the tomb of king Lucius. The fact is, it belongs to bishop De Lucy, the rebuilder of this part of the cathedral. There remain to be mentioned three chapels, which terminate the sacred edifice to the east, that of bishop Langton on the south side, where stands his large altar tomb; that of the Guardian Angels, containing the curious monument of the earl of Portland, and that of bishop Mews, on the left; and the Lady Chapel in the centre. This having been lengthened one half by prior Silkstede, a little before the Reformation, exhibits the latest portion of a structure, which contains in itself the architecture of four whole centuries.

* See the engraved Plate of these Chantries in *The History and Survey of Winchester,* vol. ii, p. 59.

ENVIRONS OF THE CATHEDRAL.

ON the south side of the church were the cloisters and other conventual offices of the monks, who formerly served the cathedral. Two kitchens and part of the refectory or dining-hall may still be traced at the south-west corner of the quadrangle, where the cloisters once stood. The priors quarters are now occupied by the dean, though the disposition of their parts has been greatly altered, and the spot which at present forms the latter's garden was once covered by the chapter-house of the monastery.

In the great church, on the north side of the cathedral, from the time of the founder Alfred down to the reign of Henry I, stood another church and monastery of the same Benedictine order, called St. Grimbald's Abbey, or New Minster, which vied with the cathedral itself and its priory in extent and magnificence.

To the east of the latter, on a spot which still retains the name of the Abbey, was a convent for nuns of the Benedictine order, called St. Mary's Abbey. It was founded by Alfred's queen, who there spent the years of her widowhood under the veil.

On

On the south side of this convent, and communicating with the cathedral to the east of it, was the Bishop's Castle of Wolvesey. This castle was originally a palace of king Kenewalch, by whom, on his conversion to Christianity, it was bestowed upon the bishop. It was rebuilt in the form of a castle by bishop De Blois, king Stephen's brother; and soon after stood a severe siege from the partisans of the empress Maud. It was finally taken and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. In the place of it bishop Morley built a noble palace, the greater part of which has, within these few years, been taken down. The ruins however of the castle which still remain, being in the Saxon style, are exceedingly noble and interesting.

THE COLLEGE.

THIS was founded by that illustrious and beneficent prelate William of Wykeham, at the close of the 14th century, (possession having been taken of it March 28, 1393) for "a warden, 70 poor scholars to be instructed in grammatical learning, 10 secular priests, perpetual fellows, three priests chaplains, three clerks, and 16 choristers, and for the instruction of the scholars

a schoolmaster and an undermaster." * It was calculated by the founder to be a nursery for New College, Oxon, which he had just before compleated, in order to furnish his clergy with the higher branches of ecclesiastical learning.

There is a lofty tower to the street, in which stands a large statue of the patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The same figure, with those of the angel Gabriel and of the founder upon his knees, is seen on both sides of the second or middle tower. † The first court is intersected by a modern-built house for the use of the warden. The second court is bounded to the south by a magnificent Gothic chapel, ornamented with a rich and curious tower. The inside of the chapel is not less striking than the outside of it, being remarkable for its bold and lofty vaulting, its large painted windows, its beautiful and appropriate altar-piece, and the ancient monuments and epitaphs of its wardens and other members, which occur in what is called the ante-chapel. A great number of these, equally curious, are also seen in the Cloisters, which are spacious and elegant. In the area stands the library, which is a neat Gothic structure, ‡ being originally built for a

* Lowth's Life of Wykeham, p. 169.

† See the Plate of the College in *The History and Survey of Winchester*, vol. i, p. 297. ‡ Ibid.

chantry

chantry or chapel, in which prayers used to be offered up for the surrounding dead.

The School is a noble modern building, adorned, on the outside, with the statue of bishop Wykeham; and, in the inside, with suitable inscriptions and emblems. Besides these parts of the college, the refectory or eating-hall, as likewise the kitchen, and an allegorical figure of a trusty servant, near it, are generally shewn to strangers. At the close of the scholastic year, the students break up with the solemn performance of the well known song of *Dulce Domum*. Adjoining to the college is a spacious modern building for the residence of the gentlemen commoners, who live there under the inspection of the head-master, and frequent the public school.

This learned establishment was twice in imminent danger of dissolution, first at the Reformation, when an act of parliament, to this effect, stood in full force against it, and again in the grand Rebellion. The aforesaid act of parliament proved fatal to another college, which adjoined to this, on the south-east side of it, called St. Elizabeth's College. This was founded by an ancient bishop of Winchester, called John de Pointes or Pontissara.

ST. CROSS.

THIS venerable and curious remnant of ancient piety, which by some means, not hitherto explained, escaped the ruin that fell upon most such establishments at the beginning of the Reformation, stands at the distance of a short mile from the city. It was first founded by bishop De Blois, king Stephen's brother, for the support of thirteen resident poor men, in every necessary of life, and for affording one very ample meal in each day to 100 other indigent outboarders, who were fed in the apartment still called *Hundred-men's Hall*, as likewise for the support of a master, steward, four chaplains, thirteen clerks, and seven choristers. This charity having been, in process of time, abused, was, with great pains, restored to it's primitive purposes by the great Wykeham: insomuch that his successor in the bishopric, cardinal Beaufort, being desirous, according to the custom of great men in those times, of leaving some permanent institution of piety or charity behind him, chose rather to encrease this establishment, by a new foundation, than to begin another which should be quite a new one. He began by rebuilding a great part of the hospital, after which he endowed

dowed it for the support of thirty-five additional residents, who had fallen into poverty from decent circumstances, * of two more priests, and of three hospital nuns, whose business it was to attend upon the sick brethren.

The present establishment consists of a master, chaplain, steward, ten resident poor brethren, and three out-pensioners. Certain doles of bread are distributed to the neighbouring poor at particular times; and what is perhaps a singular remnant of the charity and hospitality of former times, a piece of bread and a horn of beer are given to every person who knocks at the porter's lodge and calls for this relief.

In the first court stands the hundred-men's-hall and the ancient kitchens of this hospitable mansion. The entrance into the principal court is under a lofty Gothic tower of finished workmanship, ornamented with three niches, in one of which cardinal Beaufort's statue, in a kneeling attitude, is permitted to remain, as likewise various emblems and devices of his family and dignity. Each resident brother possesses three small cells and a garden to himself. These habitations are placed in a line on the west-side of

* Hence he named the hospital: *Domus Elemosynaria Nobilis paupertatis.—The Alms House of Noble Poverty.*

this court. The north side consists of the master's apartments, the eating-hall, and the tower. All these parts have been rebuilt by the second founder, cardinal Beaufort. The long ambulatory, on the east side of the court, with the apartments over it, indicate the workmanship of various ages. The noble Saxon Church to the south, which is built with transepts and a tower, in the cathedral form, is chiefly the work of the first founder De Blois; though the upper story of the west-end, and the great west window and door, have evidently been built or altered at a later period.* The different parts and ornaments of this sacred edifice are deserving of the particular attention of the curious antiquary, and throw much light on the study of Saxon and Gothic architecture. †

THE GUILD-HALL.

THIS has frequently been destroyed or defaced by fire. We read, in particular, of its having been burnt down so early as the year 1112. In-

* See the Engraving of the Church and Hospital, vol. ii, p. 147, of *The History and Survey of Winchester*.

† See the observations on this head which occur, ibidem, vol. ii, p. 150, et deinceps.

deed

deed the guild or corporation to which it belongs, dates its origin, as it has been noticed, from the reign of Ethelwolph, father of king Alfred. It was rebuilt for the last time in the year 1713, as appears by the inscription under the statue of queen Ann, which is placed in the front of it. Here are contained various bushels and other measures which have been given to the city by different sovereigns, since the reign of king Edgar, who first appointed the Winchester measure to be the standard of the whole kingdom *

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE.

THIS was first an Hospital, founded by St. Brinstan, bishop of Winchester, in the early part of the tenth century. It was afterwards refounded by a charitable citizen of Winchester, John Devenish, in the reign of Edward II, and placed under the controul and management of the mayor of Winchester for the time being. In quality of an hospital it was seized upon by that irreligious and unfeeling prince, Henry VIII, who sold the very beds from under its poor tenants, though afterwards the corporation pro-

* See engraved specimens of these in the Miscellaneous Plate, in *The History and Survey of Winchester*, vol. i, p. 449.

cured a grant of the bare walls for a magazine, and for holding their assemblies in. The great room still answers the latter of these purposes, particularly for music meetings, balls, and public feasts; having been fitted up in an elegant style, chiefly by the benefaction of the late George Bridges, Esq. of Avington-house, whose portrait is there seen, together with an inimitable whole length of Charles II in his robes, by Sir Peter Lely, which he presented to the corporation upon his becoming a member of it. In an adjoining apartment, called the Council-chamber, is a list of the mayors of Winchester, ever since the year 1184, as also what are called The City Tables, being a record of remarkable transactions relating to this city. These having been for several years disgraced by a number of palpable errors which they contained, have lately been ordered to be reduced to the standard of historical truth by the present liberal magistrate Dr. Barker. There is still a charitable establishment annexed to this house, for poor widows, whose habitations are seen in the court on the north side of it. This last foundation appears to have been made by Richard Lamb, Esq. in the reign of queen Mary, and is confirmed in the charter granted to the city by her sister Elizabeth.

There is another establishment of the same nature

nature with the last-mentioned, made by bishop Morley in 1672, for ministers widows. It is called the Matron's College, and stands on the north side of the great church-yard, behind the Market-house. There is also a second assembly-room, which is situated in Upper-Brook-street.

THE MARKET-HOUSE

IS conveniently placed in the centre of the city, and is a neat building, erected in 1772. Here the market for butter, eggs, poultry, vegetables, and fish, is held on Wednesday and Saturday in every week. The markets for corn and butchers meat are kept in the Square, at no great distance. Before the erection of the said market house, the butter, and other above-mentioned commodities, were exposed for sale round the city cross and in the Penthouse. * From this

* The meaning of the word *Penthouse,* signifying *a Shed hanging out aslope from the main wall,* explains the cause of the High-street being awkwardly contracted as it is in the chief and centrical part of the city. Sheds were first thrown out from the adjoining houses in the market, which was anciently kept there, for the protection of the commodities exposed to sale. In process of time, the proprietors of those houses considering all the space above those sheds, or penthouses, to belong to them, rebuilt their houses as far as they had advanced.

circumstance

circumstance the cross obtained the name of The Butter Cross. It is a curious specimen of the architecture in this kind, which prevailed in the reign of Henry VI. The statue, that remains in one of the niches, has been said to represent St. John the Evangelist. It is, however, much more probable that it was intended either for St. Amphibalus, the British martyr, who was chosen patron of the cathedral, at its second erection, or for St. Laurence, the Roman deacon, close to the church of which saint the cross stands.

Two fairs are annually held in the city, one in Lent, the other in October. There is a charter for a third fair on St. Swithun's-day, O. S. July 26, which was formerly held, but now is in disuse. The principal fairs, however, which may be considered as belonging to the city, are those which are kept on the neighbouring hills of St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Giles on the festivals of those saints, N. S. viz. Aug. 2, and Sept. 12. The latter of these, in ancient times, lasted 16 days, and was by far the greatest fair in the kingdom, the former is still said to cause the circulation of more money in a single day than any other fair does during the same time.

THE COUNTY HOSPITAL

IN Parchment-street was the first of its kind that was established out of the metropolis. It is impossible for poor patients to have better advice or attendance than they meet with there.

THE COUNTY GAOL

IN a street which now receives its name from it, but which was anciently called Jewry-street, from the number of Jews who resided in it, is new built and fitted up, according to the famous Mr. Howard's plan. Every possible precaution is taken for the health, the cleanliness, and the morals of the unfortunate prisoners, by the humane keeper, Mr. White. Opposite to it is an elegant new built Theatre.

THE BRIDEWELL

ADJOINING to Hyde-street, is also built according to the aforesaid plan, and is not less remarkable than the Goal for its cleanliness and regularity. Still, however, it argued great forgetfulness and disrespect to the immortal Alfred, the

the saviour and the model of his country, and the founder of its navy and constitution, to erect a common prison over his and his families ashes and those of other illustrious personages who were interred in this very spot, where formerly stood the church of Hyde-Abbey. On digging the foundations of this new erection many stone coffins and bones of the above-mentioned deceased were unavoidably violated.

Two of the said coffins, within the first court of the building, and other remains of that celebrated monastery, which was removed hither from the north side of the cathedral in the reign of Henry I, are ranked amongst the antiquities of Winchester. To the same class belong the west-gate of the city, and the city walls, particularly those adjoining to the said gate; as also St. Peter's porch, * which is all that now remains of the venerable hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, on the hill of that name, where it formed the west door of the church. On the destruction of that edifice, which was of much the same institution and date with that of St. Cross, it was removed to its present situation in St. Peters-street, in 1792. Just within the porch is a

* See the engraved View of it in *The History and Survey of Winchester*, vol. ii, p. 229.

great

great stone, supposed to have been a Druidical altar; * and at the end of a gravel walk, leading from it, is St. Peter's Chapel, belonging to the Catholics of Winchester. It is a compleat and elegant Gothic structure lately erected, and is ornamented with a great number of curious paintings and devices. †

The existence of near a hundred churches or chapels, formerly in this city, can still be traced. Some of these had monasteries or colleges annexed to them. There were, in particular, convents of the four mendicant orders, Dominicans, Carmelites, Hermits of St. Augustine, and Franciscans. Some ruins of the latter's church may be traced in their still existing enclosure, near Durn or rather Bourne gate. There was also a convent of hospital nuns, near King's gate, whose profession it was to attend the sick. At present, exclusive of those which have been already mentioned, there exist only four churches within the city, those of St. Thomas, St. Maurice, St. Lawrence, and St. Swithun; and five in the suburbs of it, those of St. John, St. Peter Cheesehill, or rather Chusul, St. Michael, King's-gate-street, St. Bartholomew Hyde, and St. Mar-

* See a View of this Altar in the Frontispiece of *The History and Survey of Winchester.*

† See an inside and outside View of it, vol. ii, p. 229.

tin's, Winal. Of these St. Maurice's church, in the High-street, is by far the most considerable and elegant.

The private houses in the city most deserving of notice are, East-gate-house, now the property of Sir Henry Mildmay, where formerly the Dominican convent stood; the house in Southgate-street, built by Edward Sheldon, Esq. late Mr. Serle's, which now belongs to the barrack department; Mr. Richards' newly erected school-house in Hyde-street, which is one of the most celebrated classical seminaries in the kingdom; the house in St. Thomas-street, late Sir Villiers Chernocke's, which, though exceedingly commodious, has been a considerable time untenanted; it is now occupied by Miss Wade as a ladies boarding-school; not to speak of the Deanery and certain other houses in the Close. Within these few years has been taken down a noble modern mansion, nearly adjoining to Westgate, called West-gate-house, which was inferior to none of those already-mentioned.

The

The following are the most considerable Seats of the Nobility and Gentry within a few miles of Winchester.

AT the distance of about two miles from the city, on the left side of the road leading to London through Alresford, a series of direction posts points to Avington-house, late the property of the duke of Chandos, and now belonging to earl Temple, who married the duke's only daughter and heiress. The front of this noble mansion is peculiarly striking, being adorned with lofty stone columns, pediment, statues, &c. There is also, before the house, a spacious piece of water, which was designed and executed by the late duke with the utmost taste, a little before his death. At the distance of a few miles further, in the same direction, is The Grange, formerly the seat of the earl of Northington, and which, since his death, has been honoured with the residence of his royal highness the prince of Wales. It is now the property of Henry Drummond, esq. and is much admired for its elegance, and the judicious arrangement of the building and

grounds. On the right hand side of this road, at the distance of about six miles from Winchester, is Tichborne-house, the seat of sir Henry Tichborne, bart. which has been inhabited by the ancient family that derives its name from it, * ever since the Saxon period. Part of the present house, which is moated round in the ancient fashion, was erected in that remote period. At about an equal distance, both from Winchester and from Tichborne, on the left side of the road leading to Portsmouth, is Rosehill, formerly called Longwood-house. Its present name is derived from the second title of the earl of Northesk, one of the sixteen peers of Scotland, who possesses it in consequence of his marriage with the niece of the illustrious earl St. Vincent. At much the same distance from the Portsmouth road, on the opposite side of it, is Marwell, a very ancient and retired seat, formerly belonging to the see of Winchester, from which it was alienated by the duke of Somerset, in Edward the VIth's reign, in favour of one of his brothers.

On the left side of the Southampton road,

* *Tichborne*, quasi *De Itchinborne*, or of the Itchin river or source. Ita Selden apud Trussel.

three

three miles from our city, is the pleasant village of Twyford, remarkable for several considerable and neat houses. The principal of these is Shawford-house, the seat of one of the branches of the Mildmays. The manor and park of Twyford appear to have been dismembered from the bishopric of this city by queen Elizabeth, in favor of an ancestor of that family, who was one of her secretaries of state. Nothing, upon so small a scale, can exceed the elegance and conveniency of that beautiful box, called Twyford Lodge, now the property of George Hoar, esq. Two miles beyond this village is Brambridge, formerly the seat of the ancient family of the Wells, now the property of Walter Smythe, esq. Opposite to this is Cranbury-house, which contains some noble apartments and valuable paintings, of late belonging to Mr. Dummer, now to Nathaniel Dance, esq. At Hursley, on the Rumsey road, distant five miles from Winchester, is the elegant and spacious mansion of Sir William Heathcote, bart. The former house, which this was built to replace, with the estate annexed to it, was the property and residence of the protector, Richard Cromwell, eldest son and successor of Oliver Cromwell, He, with the rest of his family, lies interred

terred in the church of this village, where an elegant monument preserves their memory. Exactly three miles from Winchester, on the Stockbridge road, is Lainston-house, now the property of general Bathurst. Here, that is to say, in a diminutive church close to the house, were celebrated the first nuptials of the famous duchess of Kingston with the earl of Bristol, which afterwards were the subject of a state trial in Westminster-hall. Two miles further, on the same road, is Crawley-house, which has long been one of the most celebrated hunting-seats in the country, and which now, by the improvements of the present proprietor, Richard Meyler, esq. promises to become equally elegant and convenient as a dwelling-house. At Wherwell, on the road to Andover, is the seat of Joshua Iremonger, esq. This was once a celebrated Benedictine abbey, founded by the beautiful Elfrida, in which she long resided the model of a true penitent. On the road to London through Basingstoke, at the distance of eight miles from this city, is Stratton, formerly the magnificent seat of the Wriothesleys earls of Southampton, but which, being mutilated of two-thirds of its former size, has of late formed a mansion for lord John Russell, brother to the duke of Bedford,

whose

whose property it is. The latter nobleman has of late taken down the whole of another spacious seat at Micheldever, near Stratton, which he purchased. Nearer home, at Worthy, anciently called Wordie, is the seat of admiral Sir Chaloner Ogle, which forms a conspicuous and pleasing object from many parts of the city of Winchester.

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